



# EcoAdventures E-Newsletter

## THE MORNING-GLORIES

By Roger L. Hammer

Morning-glories are like monarch butterflies in that their common name has widespread recognition. The true morning-glories in the genus *Ipomea* are well represented in Florida with 12 native species and 13 naturalized species. The most widely known morning-glory is undoubtedly *Ipomea batatas*, the cultivated sweet potato (and boniato). And there are several native species that are well known to Florida residents, and these are moonflower (*Ipomea alba*), a familiar sight along fencerows with large showy white flowers that open at night and close in early morning, ocean-blue morning-glory (*Ipomea indica* var. *acuminata*), another common species along fencerows and in various natural habitats, with pinkish violet flowers, and railroad vine (*Ipomea pes-caprea*), that should be familiar to anyone who has stepped foot on Florida's sandy beaches. It is a common dune plant with long stems running up and down the dunes, and produces pinkish purple flowers. In ancient Hawaii the trumpet-shaped flowers of railroad vine were used as a soothing sheath following circumcision.



*Ipomea indica*  
Photo by  
Roger L. Hammer

For the full article [click here](#)

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## Nature Centers

### AD Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center

3401 SW 72 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33155  
305-662-4124

Arch Creek Nature Center  
1855 NE 135 St.  
North Miami, FL 33181  
305-944-6111

Bill Sadowski Nature Center  
17555 SW 79 Ave.  
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157  
305-255-4767

Castellow Hammock Nature Center  
22301 SW 162 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33170  
305-242-7688

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center  
6767 Crandon Blvd.  
Key Biscayne, FL 33149  
305-361-6767 ext. 112

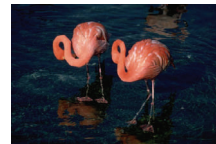
## Feature Event for January

### **Flamingo Flamingos Kayak Excursion**

Saturday, January 9, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

\$65 per person

Bring your binoculars and enjoy a kayaking excursion with two expert guides as you paddle from Flamingo to view wild flamingos and other wading birds along the edge of Snake Bight in Everglades National Park. Transportation, kayak, paddle, life vest, and safety equipment provided. For reservations call 305-365-3018



**For information on customized or group tours please contact**

**EcoAdventures Office**

4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne, FL 33149 305-365-3018

[email](#)

Visit our  
[Website](#)

## January Calendar of Events

### **SUNSET & MOONLIGHT KAYAK**

Saturday, January 2 (Blue Moon), 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Saturday, January 30, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

\$40 per person

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center (305) 365-3018

### **CRANDON PARK BIRD WALK**

Sunday, January 3, 8:00 AM–10:00 AM

\$3 per person

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center (305) 361-6767 ext 112

### **BACKCOUNTRY KAYAK FISHING (Black Point)**

Sunday, January 3, 7:30 AM -12:30 PM

\$85 per person (305)365-3018

### **ARCH CREEK'S CAMPFIRE PROGRAM**

Friday, January 8 , 7:30 PM-9:00 PM

Friday, January 22, 7:30 PM -9:00 PM

\$6 per person

Arch Creek Nature Center 305-944-6111

### **CRANDON NATURALIST ECOLOGY SERIES: SEAGRASS**

Saturday, January 9, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

\$10 per person (Bring your own mask and snorkel gear or rent ours for \$8 (you get to keep the snorkel!))

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center (305) 361-6767 ext 112

### **NIGHTWALK & CAMPFIRE**

Saturday, January 9, 7:00 PM -8:30 PM

\$6 Per person

Bill Sadowski Nature Center 305-255-4767

### **BISCAYNE BAY KAYAK FISHING (Matheson Hammock)**

Monday, January 18, 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

\$85 per person 305-365-3018

### **TEACHER WORK DAY– ONE DAY CAMP**

Friday, January 22, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM (early drop-off & late pick-up available)

Ages 6-12

AD Barnes Nature Center 305-662-4124

Bill Sadowski Nature Center 305-255-4767

### **CANOE & KAYAK FISHING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

\$20 per person

Castellow Hammock Nature Center 305-242-7688

### **CRANDON NATURALIST ECOLOGY SERIES: MANGROVES**

Saturday, January 23, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

\$10 per person

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center (305) 361-6767 ext 112

### **NIGHTWALK & CAMPFIRE—SINGLES NIGHT**

Saturday, January 23, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM

\$6 Per person

Bill Sadowski Nature Center 305-255-4767

### **SUNSET CANOE & CAMPFIRE**

Saturday, January 30, 4:00 PM—8:00 PM

\$33 adults, \$20 children (14 and under)

Bill Sadowski Nature Center 305-255-4767

### **FULL MOON CAMPFIRE PROGRAM – ALL ABOUT OWLS!**

Saturday, January 30

\$6 per person

A.D. Barnes Park Nature Center 305-365-3018

For a full list of events,  
including **on going programs**

[click here](#)



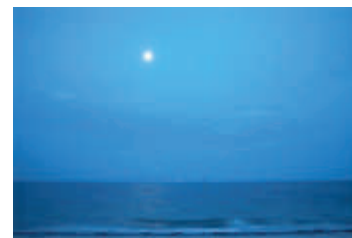
## **Kid's Corner:**

### **Blue Moon**

Most years have twelve full moons which occur approximately monthly, but in addition to those twelve full lunar cycles, each calendar year contains an excess of roughly eleven days. The extra days accumulate, so that every two or three years (on average about every 2.715 years), there is an extra full moon.

The extra moon is called a "blue moon." Full moons has been given various names based on locality and culture, often with descriptive names such as harvest moon, growing moon, snow moon, and egg moon. The earliest recorded English usage of the term "blue moon" was in 1528.

The term "blue moon" is commonly used to describe the rarity of an event, as in the expression, "once in a blue moon."



## **Ask a Naturalist**

**Q:** There area a pair of screech owls in our yard every night. We would like to offer them a nesting box but can find no information on the size of box that they require. Can you be of any help?

Bill and Marjory, Miami

**A:** The box should be made out of rough-sawed wood with the rough side on the inside of the box. The bottom should be 8" x 8", the height 12-15" and the 3" hole should be placed 9-12" above the floor. The recommended height above the ground is 10-30 feet. These are easy birds to entice into a manmade nesting box if the proper home is offered to them. Remember to drill some small vent holes beneath the roof for air circulation and a few small holes in the floor for drainage.



Illustration by  
Wade Henry

Have a question for our Naturalists? Send it to us [here](#).



To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? Email us at [ecoadventures@miamidade.gov](mailto:ecoadventures@miamidade.gov) or call 305-365-3018

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to apply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Call (305) 365-6706 (V/TDD) to request material in accessible format, sign language interpreter five days in advance, or for information on access for persons with disabilities.